

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 20, 21, 43; 62, 67, and 68 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of making a set of labeled compounds, by the use of a support and a set of labels, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) at least one first or intermediate step comprising dividing the support into lots, performing a different chemical reaction on each lot of the support so as either to modify that lot of the support or to couple a chemical moiety to that lot of the support, tagging a fraction of each lot of the support with a different label, and combining ~~the~~ said lots of the support, and
 - b) at least one intermediate or final step comprising dividing the support into lots, performing a different chemical reaction on each lot of the support, so as either to modify that lot of the support or to couple a chemical moiety to that lot of the support, tagging a fraction of each lot of the support with a different cleavable label, wherein the label is cleavable to give a charged species for mass spectrometry, whereby each different cleavable label is linked to a chemical moiety coupled to the support in a different step and forms with that chemical moiety a labeled compound which is separable from the support, and combining the said lots of the support.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the support is a particulate solid support.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step b) is performed to couple the chemical moiety to a chemical moiety previously coupled to the support.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the chemical moieties are monomer units and the labeled compounds are oligomers.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the set of labeled compounds is a library of n^s oligomers, wherein the n is the number of different monomer units and the s is the number of monomer units in each labeled oligomer, wherein step a) is performed once to couple a different monomer unit to each of the support, and step b) is performed $s-1$ times.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the set of labeled compounds contains $n \times s$ different labels.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each labeled compound comprises a single label and at least one chemical moiety.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the support is treated to release said labeled compounds into solution.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein from 0.25% to 25% of each lot of the support is tagged in each step with a different label.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the support has cleavable linkers, wherein each cleavable linker has at least one group for chemical synthesis and another group for labeling.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each label is a group of formula $R^1R^2R^3C-$, where R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a monocyclic or fused ring aromatic group that is substituted or unsubstituted.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 carries a substituent selected from C1-C20 alkoxy and hydrocarbyl either unsubstituted by carboxylic acid, sulphonic acid, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, thiol, primary, secondary, or tertiary amino, primary or secondary amido, anhydride, carbonyl halide, or active ester.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the labeled compounds are labeled oligonucleotides.
15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A set of labeled compounds wherein a molecule of a compound of the set is tagged with a single cleavable label which identifies the nature and/or the position of a component of that molecule, **wherein each label is cleavable to give a charged species for mass spectrometry**, and different molecules of the same compound are tagged with different labels, wherein each label is a group of formula $R^1R^2R^3C^-$, where R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a monocyclic or fused ring aromatic group that is substituted or unsubstituted.

21. (Currently amended) A set of labeled compounds wherein a molecule of a compound of the set is tagged with a single cleavable label which identifies the nature and/or the position of a component of that molecule, **wherein the label is cleavable to give a charged species for mass spectrometry**, and different molecules of the same compound are tagged with different labels, wherein each label is a group of formula $R^1R^2R^3C^-$, where R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a monocyclic or fused ring aromatic group that is substituted or unsubstituted; and wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 carries a substituent selected from C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy or hydrocarbyl either unsubstituted or substituted by carboxylic acid, sulphonic acid, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, thiol, primary, secondary or tertiary amino, primary or secondary amido, anhydride, carbonyl halide or active ester.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24 -41. (Canceled)

42. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein $R^1R^2R^3C^-$ is a substituted monomethoxytrityl group.

43. (Currently amended) A set of labeled compounds wherein a molecule of a compound of the set is tagged with a single cleavable label which identifies the nature and/or the position of a component of that molecule, **wherein the label is cleavable to give a charged species for mass spectrometry,** and different molecules of the same compound are tagged with different labels, wherein each label is a group of formula $R^1R^2R^3C-$, where R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a monocyclic or fused ring aromatic group that is substituted or unsubstituted and wherein $R^1R^2R^3C-$ is a substituted monomethoxytrityl group.

44-58. (Canceled)

59. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein $R^1R^2R^3C-$ is a substituted monomethoxytrityl group.

60-61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently amended) A set of labeled compounds wherein a molecule of a compound of the set is tagged with a single cleavable label which identifies the nature and/or the position of a component of that molecule, **wherein the label is cleavable to give a charged species for mass spectrometry,** and different molecules of the same compound are tagged with different labels, wherein each label is a group of formula $R^1R^2R^3C-$, where R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a monocyclic or fused ring aromatic group that is substituted or unsubstituted; and wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 carries a substituent selected from C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy or hydrocarbyl either unsubstituted or substituted by carboxylic acid, sulphonic acid, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, thiol, primary, secondary or tertiary amino, primary or secondary amido, anhydride, carbonyl halide or active ester; and wherein $R^1R^2R^3C-$ is a substituted monomethoxytrityl group.

63-65. (Canceled)

66. (Original) The compound of claim 42, wherein $R^1R^2R^3C-$ is a substituted monomethoxytrityl group.

67. (Currently amended) A library consisting of a set of labeled compounds wherein a molecule of a compound of the set is tagged with a single cleavable label which identifies the nature and/or the position of a component of that molecule, **wherein the label is cleavable to give a charged species for mass spectrometry,** and different molecules of the same compound are tagged with different labels; wherein each label is a group of formula $R^1R^2R^3C-$, where R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a monocyclic or fused ring aromatic group that is substituted or unsubstituted.

68. (Currently amended) A library consisting of a set of labeled compounds wherein a molecule of a compound of the set is tagged with a single cleavable label which identifies the nature and/or the position of a component of that molecule, **wherein the label is cleavable to give a charged species for mass spectrometry,** and different molecules of the same compound are tagged with different labels, wherein each label is a group of formula $R^1R^2R^3C-$, where R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a monocyclic or fused ring aromatic group that is substituted or unsubstituted; and wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 carries a substituent selected from C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy or hydrocarbyl either unsubstituted or substituted by carboxylic acid, sulphonic acid, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, thiol, primary, secondary or tertiary amino, primary or secondary amido, anhydride, carbonyl halide or active ester.

69. (Canceled)

70-74. (Canceled)